

Smallpox and Monkeypox Vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

June 2022

Vaccination is the best protection against smallpox and its complications. Smallpox is a disease that has been eradicated for over 40 years. Vaccination against smallpox can also prevent monkeypox or lessen its symptoms. Monkeypox is a very rare disease caused by a virus from the same family as smallpox, but with milder symptoms.

Disease	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Smallpox	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever for several days• Chills• Headache, fatigue• Joint or muscle pain• Swollen glands• Nausea and vomiting• Impairment in general health• Smallpox blisters (tiny blisters that form a crust and dry up) all over the body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infection of a smallpox blisters• Eye infection, blindness• Lung infection, pneumonia• Serious infection (e.g. sepsis)• Encephalitis (brain infection)• Myocarditis (infection of the envelope of the heart)• Miscarriage in pregnant women• Abortion or premature delivery birth defects in baby whose mother contracted smallpox during pregnancy• Death in one third of cases
Monkeypox	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• Night sweats• Headache, fatigue• Joint or muscle pain• Swollen glands• Smallpox blisters (tiny blisters that form a crust and dry up)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lung infection, pneumonia• Serious infection (e.g. sepsis)• Encephalitis (brain infection)• Eye infection, blindness• Miscarriage in pregnant women• Transmission of the disease to the fetus whose mother had monkeypox during pregnancy• Death very rarely

The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against smallpox and its complications. This vaccine can also prevent monkeypox. The vaccine may be recommended for some people who have been in contact with monkeypox.

(see verso)

Smallpox and Monkeypox Vaccine *(continued)*

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Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site).

Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Smallpox vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain, redness, swelling, induration, itching at the injection site • Nausea • Headache, fatigue • Muscle pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site. • Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed. • See a doctor if symptoms are severe. • See a doctor if you have shortness of breath, chest pain, or palpitations following vaccination.
Sometimes (less than 1% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat, nodule, hematoma, discoloration at the injection site • Limb pain, joint pain • Fever, chills 	
Rarely (less than 1 in 1,000 people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swollen lymph nodes • Peeling skin • Infection of the nose or throat • Sleep disorder • Dizziness • Numbness 	
Very rarely (less than 1 in 10,000 people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blisters • Anesthesia, nerve damage • Urticaria, facial swelling • Night sweats, profuse sweats • Muscle spasm • Weakness • Migraine 	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reaction may occur. If an allergic reactions occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reactions immediately.

For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 811 or your doctor.